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SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Mysuru Zoo prepares for cautious RE-OPENING

Mysuru, May 22 (MTY&BCT)- The Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, popular as Mysuru Zoo, is awaiting directions from the State Government to open its doors to the visitors and patrons. A proposal has been sent to the Government by the Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) seeking permission to open all the nine Zoos in the State including the one in Mysuru.

The Mysuru Zoo has been closed for visitors ever since the nationwide lockdown was imposed and closure during peak summer season has dented its revenues, forcing the Zoo authorities and the elected representatives to send out an appeal for funds. Now as the lockdown has eased a bit, the ZAK has sought permission to re-open the Zoo with lot of precautions.

"We are ready to open the Zoo for public and the ZAK has prepared a Standard Operating Procedures that will apply to all Zoos of Karnataka including ours. As soon as the Government accepts our proposal we will be back in action," Zoo Executive Director Ajit M. Kulkarni told *Star of Mysore* this morning and added that as of now, there is no green signal from the Government to open the Zoo from June 1.

The Mysuru Zoo earns anywhere between Rs. 3 crore and Rs. 5 crore from March to May, that is summer season and even if the Zoo opens at this juncture, it has to follow the prescribed norms. "People will naturally crowd the Zoo campus and we have to ensure that enough precautions are taken for crowd management and streamlining," he said.

(See ZOO on page 6)

No contact golf begins at JWGC

Mysuru, May 22 (BCT)- Following the State Government's order to open up sports activities with stringent social distancing norms, golfing has begun at Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Club (JWGC) in city this morning with a lot of precautions. Club members lined up to play the game amidst a host of rules enforced by the Club management, in line with the guidelines issued by Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, JWGC President C.S. Ravishankar said that mandatory and maximum extent possible precautions have been taken to ensure safety of golfers, the Club and the staff. Golfers will have to provide a signed declaration or a questionnaire supplied to them before they start playing. Details of their health and travel history are recorded in the declaration.

"Mandatory temperature screening will be conducted on every golfer and golfing slots are booked by appointment only. This is to ensure that there is no crowding at the golf course and the Club campus. Those who have taken the appointments are expected to come early for the screening and until the process is initiated, they are intimated to wait in their vehicles," Ravishankar said.

(See GOLF on page 6)

COVID-related drug purchase: Govt. cracks whip on medical stores

Mandatory for pharmacies to record and report details of patients who purchase cold, fever medicines

Mysuru, May 22 (BCT)- In the wake of rising Coronavirus cases, State authorities have made it mandatory for medical shops and pharmacists to keep a record of phone number and address of customers who buy medicines for fever, cough and cold or symptoms similar to COVID-19.

Every evening pharmacists have to upload the details of such drug purchase in an app developed by State Disaster Management Authority. Any failure or lapse by the medical stores will lead to suspension of licence.

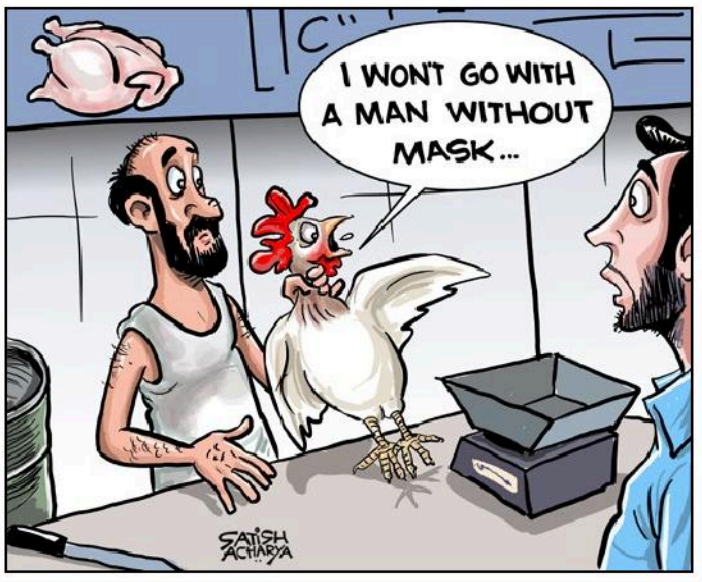
Sources told *Star of Mysore* that State Chief Secretary T.M. Vijayabhaskar held a meeting via video-conference with all District Drugs Controllers and asked them to ensure that all medical stores and pharmacies mandatorily upload the details of buyers purchasing medicines for fever, cough and common cold.

The Karnataka Epidemic Diseases (COVID-19) Regulations 2020 states that that Influenza-like Illness (ILI) and Severely Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) cases, whose symptoms are similar to that of COVID-l9 should be screened at the initial stages of symptoms to arrest morbidity and mortality due to COVID-19 in the community.

The drugs are broadly categorised as pertaining to the treatment of symptoms like fever (Antipyretics and Anti-inflammatory), cold (Antiallergic) and cough (Anti-tussive).

(See DRUG on page 6)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya



Mysuru-Bengaluru MEMU train service begins

Train chugs out of City Railway Station at 1.45 pm with 59 passengers

Mysuru, May 22 (RK&KS)- Train service between Mysuru and Bengaluru resumed this afternoon with the first Mainline Electric Maintenance Unit (MEMU) special service train chugging out of City Railway Station with 59 passengers at 1.45 pm. The train had arrived from Bengaluru at 12.30 pm with 69 passengers. The passengers had booked the tickets online.

The passengers, who arrived from Bengaluru, were screened and social distancing was maintained. After the passengers alighted from the train, the staff cleaned the train thoroughly and sanitised it. Later, the passengers to Bengaluru were allowed to board the train, which left the Railway Station at 1.45 pm along with Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel. Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Aparna Garg, RPF officials, Mandi Police and N.R. Traffic personnel were present.

MCC lends helping hand to auto drivers

Mysuru, May 22 (PM&BNR)- As a result of nationwide lockdown that brought the transport system to a standstill, among the severely affected included the auto drivers. A couple of Auto Drivers Associations had submitted a request to the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) to help the needy members of their Associations who were finding it very hard to eke out a living.

Responding to their plea, the MCC distributed grocery kits to 220 needy auto drivers of Mysuru Autorickshaw Drivers Association (total 535 members) at the CADA premises and 160 members of Ashokpuram Adikarnataka Auto Drivers and Owners Association (total 300 members) at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Park premises in Ashokapuram.

Each kit contained 1 kg salt, 1.5 litre cooking oil, 800 gm channa, 800 gm horsegram, 800 gm wheat flour and 800 gm ragi flour. Volunteers appointed by the Department of Information and Public Relations, Mysuru, as 'Corona Warriors,' under the guidance of the Department Assistant Director Raju, packed these ration kits and distributed them to ensure the kits reach the genuine beneficiaries.

Volunteers included Rakshith Kashyap, Nishita Krishnaswamy, Phani Datta, Shishirath Ramesh, Rakshita Rao, Madhushree, Abhilash Jain, Suresh Kumar, Subramanya Rao, Rajath R. Shankar, Abhilash Jain, Harsha Kumar, B.R. Rajesh and Amaresh. Mysuru Autorickshaw Drivers Association President M. Mahadevaswamy was also present.

Four labourers electrocuted

Teju *Mahadevaswamy* *Mahadevanayaka* *Mahadevaswamy*

Mysuru, May 22 (SBD, YDS & KS)- In separate incidents, four labourers were electrocuted in Varuna and Metagalli Police limits in city. While three labourers died at Varuna, one more died in Metagalli.

In the first incident, three labourers who were transporting maize stalks in a truck were electrocuted when the truck came in contact with a power line at Keelanapura in Varuna Police limits yesterday.

The deceased are Teju (21), Mahadevaswamy alias Siddaraju (26) and Mahadevanayaka (46), all residents of Hosapura village in T. Narasipur taluk.

Yesterday, 10 labourers from Hosapura village had come in a truck belonging to Siddappa to Keelanapura village to load maize stalks to be transported as fodder to the cattle at Pinjrapole in Mysuru.

After the maize stalks were loaded, the truck left Hosapura village. As there are power lines on the way to Mysuru, Mahadevanayaka used to get down from the truck, walk ahead of the truck and inform the truck driver whether the truck could pass below the power lines.

But Mahadevanayaka, at one point, tried to climb the truck before it could pass below the power line and the truck came in contact with the power line. Immediately, Mahadevanayaka was electrocuted and he fell down screaming. Hearing his screams, Teju and Mahadevaswamy tried to get down from the truck and both were electrocuted.

While Mahadevaswamy and Mahadevanayaka died on the spot, Teju breathed his last enroute to a hospital. Meanwhile, those sitting in the driver's cabin including the truck driver had a miraculous escape. A major mishap was averted as the truck driver drove the vehicle from below the power line and stopped.

Meanwhile, Varuna Sub-Inspector T.S. Lolakshi said that the truck was overloaded which resulted in the power line coming in contact with the truck. A case has been registered against the truck driver and the owner of the truck, she said and added that the bodies were shifted to MMC&RI mortuary for post-mortem.

The Sub-Inspector said that the bodies would be handed over to the family members after the post-mortem today.

In the second incident, another labourer, who was summoned to install electric poles at Metagalli Industrial Area was electrocuted.

The deceased is Mahadevaswamy (33), son of Shivanna and a resident of Kochanahalli near Kadakola in the taluk.

Following heavy rains and wind the previous day, more than 20 electric poles were damaged as tree branches had fallen on them. To get the damaged electric poles replaced and restore power connection, Contractor Prabhu had brought labourers Mahadevaswamy, Basappa, Yashwanth Kumar and Ganesh from Kochanahalli for the repair works.

Mahadevaswamy and others, who removed the damaged electric poles, were installing new poles and were giving power connections near the Petrol Bunk close to JK Tyre. While Mahadevaswamy was giving the power connection at about 3 pm, he was electrocuted and fell to the ground. Though he was rushed to a private hospital Mahadevaswamy breathed his last, according to those who were with him.

The body was shifted to MMC&RI mortuary and the villagers, who heard the news of Mahadevaswamy's death, rushed to the mortuary and held CESC officials responsible for Mahadevaswamy's death. The villagers demanded Rs. 30 lakh compensation be given to Mahadevaswamy's family to which V.V. Mohalla CESC officials assured of getting adequate compensation.

Meanwhile, V.V. Mohalla CESC Executive Engineer Chikkasiddegowda, speaking to *Star of Mysore* said that following gusty winds on Wednesday evening in Metagalli Industrial area and surrounding places, most of the electric poles were damaged and to erect new poles three Contractors were given the works.

He further said that Prabhu was getting the repair work done from Mahadevaswamy and when the last work of giving the 'jump connection' was being undertaken by Mahadevaswamy, one of the industries switched on the generator following which Mahadevaswamy may have been electrocuted, he added. The cause for his death would be known only after the post-mortem, he said.

VOICE OF THE READER

UPOR and PID Numbers: Will MCC clarify?

Sir,

This refers to the recent letter titled ***"City Corporation moves with online property tax collection system"*** by giving PID number (Property Identification Number) to owners.

A property survey was conducted several years ago under Urban Property Ownership Records (UPOR) in Karnataka — Computerised Land Registration System for Urban Properties — and a UPOR number (PID No.) was issued. I already have the PID issued in my name for my residential property.

Why is the same thing being repeated again after lakhs of rupees was spent by the Revenue Department on issuing UPOR? Will MCC clarify? It is such a sorry state that we keep wasting tax-payer's money. But I am glad that at last the property tax is going online. Better late than never.

I hope this online property tax is made available throughout the State in all cities and towns.

— George Rego

Mysuru
19.5.2020

Shoe World opens second outlet

Mysuru, May 22- Shoe World, one of the leading and famous footwear dealers in city established in 1998 at Ramaswamy Circle, 100ft Rd., Mysuru, has now opened its second outlet at Shivarampet in city (#1033/1, opposite Mannar's Market).

Apart from dealing with all Indian, International and MNC Brands and offering bulk supply to School/ Colleges, Factories, Hospitals and Sports Academies, Institutional Supplies at responsible price, they are also introducing MCP and Medifeet Soft Health Care Footwear which are diabetes and ortho-friendly recommended by many Ortho Doctors.

At the new store, they are giving 'Ramzan Offer' (Buy 2 Get 1 Free) on all the In-House Brands till June 7.

Home Minister in city

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai is seen addressing a meeting of Policemen in city this afternoon where the Department progress was reviewed. He complimented the Policemen for self-less service and ensuring law and order during Coronavirus pandemic. Also seen in the photo are Superintendent of Police C.B. Ryshyanth, City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta, District Minister S.T. Somashekar, IGP Southern Range Vipul Kumar and DCP Law and Order Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda.

Obituary

M. Srinivasan

Mysuru, May 22 - M. Srinivasan (81), retired Chemical Engineer at Karnataka Engineering Research Centre, KRS and a resident of Kuvempunagar, passed away yesterday in city.

He leaves behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed yesterday evening.

M. R. Vijaykumar

M. R. Vijaykumar (67), a Purohit and a resident of Shivarampet, passed away at his residence yesterday.

He leaves behind his wife, one daughter, two brothers, three sisters and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill this morning, according to family sources.

Brain stimulation through online activity at Orchids

Mysuru, May 22- Keeping in mind the uncertainty in reopening of school and understanding the difficulty parents face in engaging their children during the lockdown period, Pandit's The orchids Public School and PU College have been keeping students involved in learning through online classes and activities. II PU and 10th std. students are undergoing online classes through weblinks or on WhatsApp from Apr. 5 whereas Classes 1 to 9 students are getting activity-based learning support from May 18.

"All the learning happens through innovative age appropriate activities which the school teachers have come up with. We are keeping parent's concern over availability of smartphones / laptops or internet connectivity in mind but nonetheless ensuring maximum involvement of students by giving them home assignments and making them do it and post it back in WhatsApp without fail. It is also a time in which all our teachers are learning new things in terms of technology and also fine-tuning their communication and presentation skills," said a press release from the School Chairman Ullas Pandit.

Online workshop on 'Smart teaching and learning' concludes

Mysuru, May 22- "The importance of social networking irrespective of social distancing is a must to the present ongoing COVID situation to reach out to the students in teaching academics," said Most Rev. Dr. K.A. William, Bishop of Mysuru.

He was delivering the valedictory address of week-long online workshop on 'Smart Teaching and Learning' organised by St. Joseph's College of Education, Mysuru, under IQAC, for the teachers working under Mysore Diocesan Educational Society (MDES), Mysuru, to equip them to meet the challenges of present scenario.

Dr. Priya Mathew, Principal of St. Joseph's College of Education, said that we all need to work together as a family and venture out of our comfort zones.

Resource person M.K. Naseerali, Asst. Professor, author and trainer in Educational Technology, Aligarh Muslim University Centre, Malappuram, Kerala, also spoke. Gemma Christopher, Head Mistress, Secondary St. Joseph's Central School, Yelwal, welcomed. The report of the workshop was presented by Shalom Sannutha, Asst. Professor, St. Joseph's College of Education. Asha P. Pathrose, Asst. Professor, IQAC and Programme Co-ordinator, proposed a vote of thanks.

Pak plane with 107 on board crashes on Karachi houses

Islamabad, May 22- A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane crashed in a residential area near the Karachi Airport this afternoon, an official has confirmed. PIA spokesperson Abdul Sattar confirmed the crash and added that the flight, A-320, was carrying 107 passengers and was flying from Lahore to Karachi. There were no immediate reports on the number of casualties.

It was about to land in Karachi when it crashed at the Jinnah Garden area near Model Colony in Malir, just a minute before its landing, the report said. Footage showed plumes of smoke rising from the site of the crash. Ambulances and rescue officials arrived at the scene to help residents.

Witnesses said the Airbus A320 appeared to attempt to land two or three times before crashing in a residential area near Jinnah International Airport. The Civil Aviation Authority sources said that its communication with the plane was cut off one minute before its landing. Several houses have been damaged in the area where the aircraft crashed.

A statement by the Pakistan Army's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that Army Quick Reaction Force and Sindh Pakistan Rangers reached the spot for carrying out rescue and relief operations alongside civil administration.

Minister of Health and Population Welfare has declared emergency in all major hospitals of Karachi after the incident, Dawn news quoted Meeran Yousuf, the media coordinator to the Sindh Health Minister, as saying.

Faith in times of Coronavirus

Tug at heartstrings: A Ramzan like no other

By Shadan Muneer

As millions of Muslims observe Ramzan, the month of dawn-to-dusk fasting, how will social distancing and self-isolation work in a world fearing contagion from an unseen enemy?

Fasting but no feasting, the piety is in plenty but the frolic is amiss. The warmth is palpable but handshakes and hugs are missing. The roads are less crowded and people are adapting to a new way of life and a new way to observe Ramzan. The Holy Islamic Month of Ramzan brings about a position change in the lifestyle of Muslims across the globe as they fast from dawn to dusk and engage in special prayers at night. The emphasis of the month is on spiritual cleansing and imbibing and strengthening the tenets of Islam.

This Ramzan has not only been different but also challenging with lockdown and economic slowdown and battling global health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

All over the world from Mecca to all major countries including India, Islamic authorities called upon the community to observe Ramzan abiding by the restrictions imposed by their respective Governments as part of fighting the virus and urged people not to gather in Mosques for prayers and to offer them staying at their homes.

The usual festive mood of Mysuru city has taken a backseat this year. Mosques are empty, absence of makeshift food stalls offering scrumptious Iftar delicacies, the aroma of lip-smacking samosas, the ever-bustling markets at Meena Bazaar and people thronging shopping hotspots are all being missed but people realise it's hopefully a small price to pay to contain the contagion.

Star of Mysore caught up with people from different fields in city to understand how they are coping with this year's Ramzan under lockdown.

Stay safe, follow guidelines & pray for pandemic to end

Hazrath Moulana Mohammed Usman Shariff, Sir Khazi

It is for the first time that we are experiencing such a crisis. All places of worship including Mosques, Temples and Churches are shut to fight Coronavirus. As with most religious festivals in India, Ramzan too is centred on community interactions and practices and it is for the first time that Indian Muslims are observing Ramzan confined to their homes. It is definitely a never-before experience with no congregational prayers or special night prayers due to lockdown."

"We have called upon the community to strictly abide by restrictions for safety. There are always positives in the spirit of Ramzan, make use of this opportunity to reach out to the needy and help them in the best way possible."

"With Eid-ul-Fitr round the corner and with restrictions in place I urge everyone to have a simple Eid, express gratitude to Allah for the day and pray for the pandemic to end. Eid comes year after year and when everyone will have a shelter on their head and food to eat that will be the day to rejoice and feast. The need to save humanity along with communal harmony and peace should be the goal of every Indian and that is the true spirit of Ramzan as well." he stated, thanking all Corona Warriors.

Simple and thrifty

Tasneem, Mayor

It is important for people to understand the necessity of restrictions and follow them. This year, Ramzan amidst lockdown feels different. It has given way to a more inward observance of spirituality. I have managed to make time and balance my personal and professional life. I am making efforts to make time for prayers and handle my responsibility towards the citizens of Mysuru."

"This year's Eid will be a low-key affair for me and my family as we decided not to splurge on any buying. The atmosphere is sombre with the loss of lives, livelihoods and migrant crisis. Do not venture out unnecessarily and avoid unnecessary buying. Instead use that part of money on charity."

Altered the rhythm of sacred month yet most productive and satisfying

Ameen Kauser, Owner of CTC Car World, Car Accessories & used car showroom and Sukris Textile Store

This Ramzan has been very different yet satisfying for me. Personally I have used every minute of the lockdown productively and done things that I always wanted to do in terms of worshipping and charity as both are crucial aspects of Ramzan. No doubt that Coronavirus has altered the rhythm of the sacred month yet it has also given us a chance to reach out to the poor. With the restrictions in place, many have opted for digital modes of transferring money to charity NGOs but I wanted to make use of this opportunity as I had time and wanted to go the extra mile to reach out to the needy."

"I personally prepared over 3,000 food kits and distributed among the needy throughout the lockdown and also during the month of Ramzan as feeding the needy is considered highly rewarding charity." Ameen's family has been feeding hundreds of people over the years during Ramzan. "Fasting was prescribed by Allah for self-discipline and for everyone to understand what hunger is and how it feels like when the poor and needy go without food and water."

Rare Ramzan but getting out of this health crisis is important

Hazrath Moulana Mohammed Zaka Ullah, All India Milli Council, Mysore Dist. President

Ramzan is a month when Mosques bustle and people engage in charity abundantly. This Ramzan is quite unlike any other I have experienced over the past years. This year we are unable to do community prayers and it lacks the joy of togetherness. The feeling of praying together in a Mosque is very different. However, getting out of this crisis is also as important. The more seriously we follow Government rules, the sooner we will get back to our normal routine."

"We are doing our best in spreading the message of maintaining social distance with a lot of precautions and patience. A big thank you to Corona Warriors for 100 percent recovery rate in Mysuru. With unpredictable situation around us we can learn lessons from fasting and how they can be applied to the restrictions and the resilience related to it."

Lockdown has made way for healthy home cooked food

Dr. Asna Urooj, Chairperson, Department of Studies in Food Science and Nutrition, University of Mysore

This year's Ramzan under lockdown has made our meals shift towards being healthier with the absence of food stalls which would offer special delicacies. Return to simple tradition of Iftar has also been welcomed. It is essential to eat a healthy and balanced meal during Sehri (meal one eats before beginning their fast) and Iftar (evening snack or meal with which one breaks their fast). Fasting in Ramzan especially during peak summer can cause dehydration."

"Having curds with a pinch of cardamom powder added during Sehri meal prevents excessive thirst and curds also function as a probiotic. Avoid high-fat foods, add a lot of vegetables and greens in your meal, consume lots of fruits which will be cooling. Take a lot of antioxidant food, fresh fruit juices and black cumin commonly called kalaonji which heals a lot of ailments, certain herbs and spices such as ginger, pepper, turmeric also help build immunity." "I am happy that I have a lot more time on hand this time for worshiping and to recite Quran in leisure unlike previous years where I had to rush for prayers and cooking as soon as I return from work. Praying Taraweeh with family is a unique lifetime experience for me and we all have decided that this Eid will include simple traditional cooking minus extravagant."

Feels different but the world is also different now

Dr. Anees Ahmed, Chairman, Al Ansar Hospital & President of Huda Public School

Ramzan this year is obviously different and we can't do much about it as the whole world is also adapting to different lifestyle and routine. It has been very challenging professionally whereas the hospital is concerned we faced a lot of hardships initially due to COVID scare but had to keep the hospital functional. We now have a separate team to deal with patients with fever and other symptoms and refer them to the Government Hospital." "Lockdown has dampened the spirit of Ramzan. It is for the first time in 60 years that I am unable to go to the Mosque and offer prayers in congregation and it is quite disappointing but we must accept it and take this as a will of God and obey the rules to protect ourselves."

[Continued on page 5]

Eid-ul-Fitr on May 24 or 25

Best time for spirituality, spending quality time with family

Md. Yazdaan Khan, Director, Habib Industries

Looking at the positives of lockdown, fasting feels different and easy for me with no demanding physical activities. I've been able to spend a lot more time worshipping as Ramzan is all about upping your spirituality and nearness to God. We have had more time to reflect and grow. It has been the best Ramzan for me as I am getting peaceful time to spend with family and also trying my hand at cooking with them. At times we lose track of time and dates and everyday feels like Sunday during lockdown. The flipside is that the lockdown has hit us really hard professionally."

"Traditionally during every Eid we would invite all our friends, family and business partners of all faiths to celebrate Eid and to dine with us but this year we will not be able to have a get together which will be missed tremendously with social distancing being the new normal."

Having food to eat feels like Eid for us

Shaheen, Domestic help

I am facing a bit of problems this lockdown, I work as a domestic help in two houses and with the absence of shared auto service I have to walk to reach to my workplace while I'm fasting. I was fortunate that I was paid salary for the previous two months that went under lockdown. I am a widow and a mother of two girls. Having food to eat feels like Eid for us."

Missed out on some of the rituals

Heena Taj, Housewife

Ramzan this year has been quite hectic with taking care of kids, household chores and cooking. The absence of a domestic help has added to the routine chores but has also made us realise the value of our support staff and people who work endlessly to make our routines comfortable. I am thankful to the local administration that we were provided with food essentials at the doorstep. This year we missed out on a lot of rituals like feeding the poor who would lineup in front of the house for alms, the Iftar get-together and congregation prayers and, of course, the Haleem and samosas."

MCC honours Mobile Clinic staff

Mysuru, May 22 (MTY&BNR)- Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), at a programme organised at its Old Council Hall yesterday, presented 'Corona Warriors Honour' certificates and mementoes to Doctors, Nurses, Technicians and other staff of Mobile Clinic which provided health check-up facility to the public at their doorstep during the lockdown period when many private hospitals and clincs were shut, as a token of appreciation to the services they rendered at the hour of crisis.

Mayor Tasneem, Dy. Mayor C. Sridhar, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, Health Standing Committee Chairman J. Gopi and Health Officers Dr. D.G. Nagaraju and Dr. Jayanth were present.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nagaraju said, "Due to Corona outbreak and nationwide lockdown in place, all the private hospitals and clinics were shut in Mysuru. People who suffered from various health issues were reluctant to visit K.R. Hospital with the fear of pandemic. At this time of crisis, many Associations and Organisations suggested to start Mobile Clinics. With the help of such organisations, 12 Mobile Clinics were started. Many Doctors volunteered to provide service through Mobile Clinics. All medical, non-medical, technical, non-technical staff together have rendered health services."

15,276 people benefit from Mobile Clinics

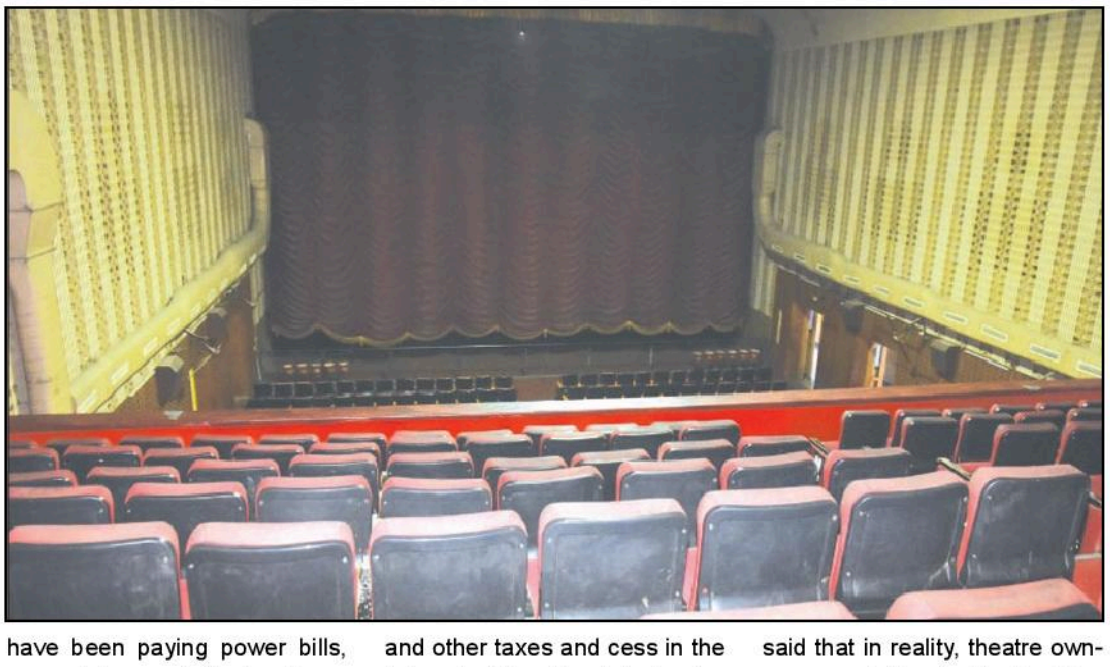
MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, who spoke after distributing the appreciation certificate, said that JSS Hospital had provided three vehicles, Vidya Vikas Educational Institutions - five vehicles, Kamakshi Hospital, Gopala Gowda Shanthaveri Hospital and Narayana Hrudayalaya had provided one ambulance each. District Pharmacists Association had provided free medicines. The 12 Mobile Clinics not only provided health services in city, but also conducted health camps in villages and Layouts near Ring Road, totalling to 148 places. In a span of 20 days, 15,276 people have benefited from these Mobile Clinics."

He also appreciated and expressed his gratitude to all the medical and paramedical staff, vehicle drivers and all those who supported the service including District Administration, Health and Family Welfare Department, Bharatiya Jain Sanghatan, Jain International Trade Organisation and volunteers.

Health Standing Committee Chairman J. Gopi, who spoke said: "Mobile Clinic staff have worked as saviours at the time of crisis. It is an act of appreciation that doctors volunteered to provide health service at a time when some even feared working at the Clinics." Health Standing Committee thanks all the Mobile Clinic staff who rendered selfless services, he added.

On the occasion, Jain Organisation felicitated Mayor, Dy. Mayor, Commissioner and Health Officers. Opposition Leader at the MCC M.U. Subbaiah and other Corporators were present.

COVID shadow: Silver screens go blank



Mysuru, May 22 (MK&DM)- The silver screens which went blank with the announcement of COVID-19 lockdown two months ago has continued to remain under the darkness of the deadly pandemic, which is creating havoc across the globe.

More than 500 theatres and cinema halls in the State that were shut two months ago, have failed to re-open since then due to the continuation of lockdown.

With theatres closed since March, the owners are a worried lot as revenue earnings have stopped. Also, the shutting down has cast a dark shadow on the fate of hundreds of theatre staff, parking contractors and their employees, food sellers, cool drink vendors and so on.

Federation of Karnataka Film Exhibitors Vice-President M.R. Rajaram, who owns a theatre in city, said that the theatre owners have been remitting ESI and other statutory benefits that are due to the staff even though theatres are shut. Also they have been paying power bills, property tax and all other taxes but the Government seems to have turned a blind eye to the problems of theatre owners as repeated pleas on deferment of taxes and other key demands remain unaddressed. Urging the Union and State Governments to exempt payment of power bills, property tax, licence fee and other taxes and cess in the interest of the film industry, he expressed disappointment that the Government has tended to ignore theatres, which have been providing jobs to scores of people directly or indirectly.

Pointing out that theatres and cinema halls are registered under the Shops and Commercial Establishment Act, Rajaram said that in reality, theatre owners are clubbed with the Film Industry and asked to pay all statutory benefits to workers. But when it comes to payment of property tax, the Government taxes them under commercial establishments classification, which is nothing but unfair. The Government should clarify on this contradiction and come to the rescue of theatre owners by addressing the issues raised by them.

Prasad, Proprietor of Sree Nagaraja theatre in Mandi Mohalla, maintained that theatre owners have paid salary to employees for March and April despite all the difficulties. "We have stopped screening of films since Mar.14 but yet we are receiving huge amount of power bills. Theatres are one among the top tax-payers to the Government and as such it must not ignore our plight when theatres have been shut and no money to pay for our employees. Also it is unfair to ask us to pay all taxes when we are in dire straits," he noted.

Asserting that there is nothing in their demand that the Government goes to lose, he said that the Government must not let down theatre owners at this critical juncture, as it is a question of survival for theatre owners and livelihood for thousands of employees.

COVID-related drug purchase

(Continued from page 1)

The drugs could be Paracetamol, Paracetamol of all dosage and strength, cetirizine, chlorpheniramine etc., and all types of cough syrups. The drugs either individually or in any combination are included.

Chemists, druggists and pharmacies in hospitals have to make an entry of the name, address, landmark and mobile number of all the persons who are provided the above drugs over the counter. Later, an app was developed for medical stores to upload daily data.

Following complaints that medical stores are not uploading data, the State Government has now tightened the rules and has warned of action against medical stores including suspension of licences. There are more than 1,300 medical stores and pharmacies in Mysuru and only 200 to 220 stores are reporting the drug sale data in the app, sources told 'Star of Mysore.'

Reports said that the Assistant Drugs Controller of Bidar has already suspended the licences of three medical stores in Bidar for not furnishing sale details of COVID-19 related drugs and not reporting all the details of patients for sale of drugs.

"Some people suffering from fever or cold symptoms which might be similar to Coronavirus are approaching the medical shops directly and asking for medicines. It is imperative that in a proactive manner the authorities must follow up on these cases. This will prevent the community spread, opined N. Raghavan of Raghulal and Co. in Mysuru.

4:51
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REPORTING OF SALE OF SPECIFIED MEDICINES Information
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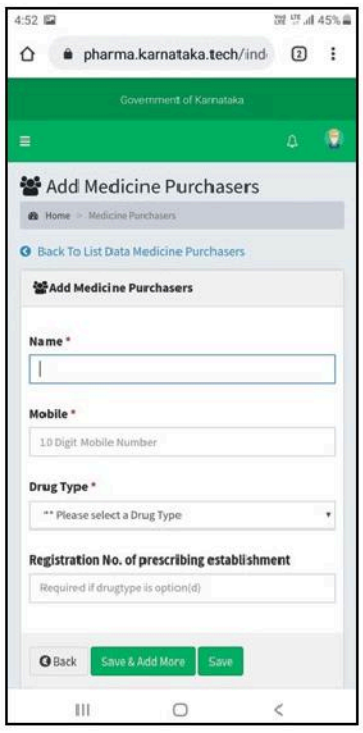

Several people were buying medicines without prescriptions from doctors and a record of those who have been doing so for Coronavirus symptoms will help authorities combat the outbreak better, Raghavan added.

Deputy Drugs Controller of Mysuru Arun Kumar told *Star of Mysore* that meetings have been conducted with all medical shops and pharmacists including respective associations and instructions have been given to them to necessarily take the contact address and phone numbers of customers who approach them to buy these medicines. "Initially there was some issue but we have sorted them now and pharmacies are uploading details in the app as mandated by the Government," he added.

No contact golf begins

(Continued from page 1)

Golfers are not provided with a caddie and they must bring their own trolleys and wheel them. "Sharing of golf clubs is not allowed and we have ensured that it will be a no contact sport. We do not supply food to golfers, they have to bring their own food and water bottles that they can fill in two RO plants provided in the Club. There is sanitisation at every step and even sanitisers are leg-operated to avoid touch. Not more than two people are permitted in each table," he explained.

Following the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, people above 65 are discouraged to golf at JWGC. "This is a contentious issue at our Club

as many seniors cannot play the game. But guidelines have to be followed. We have provided use-and-throw gloves and masks to all our staff and after golfing activities, the Club will be disinfected every day," he added.

Zoo prepares for cautious re-opening

(Continued from page 1)

28-page guidelines

The ZAK's 28-page 'Standard Operating Guidelines on Reopening Post-Covid-19 Lockdown' has to be followed when the gates are open. The guidelines say, with the opening of district, State and country borders for vehicle, train and air travel, the number of people visiting the Zoo is likely to increase over a period though it is expected that the number of visitors going to be much lower than earlier normal period.

"Now there is a real scare and people might not come here as soon as the Zoo is open. But the crowd will definitely surge after a few days and we are prepared for it," Kulkarni said and added that though the guidelines may cause some inconvenience to visitors and staff there is no way but to accept the new normal till the time normalcy returns.

Limited visitors

"For the safety of everyone, both staff, animals and guests, we will have to limit the number of visitors in the park. Social distancing will be observed in the queue and throughout the Zoo and several new cleaning procedures have been implemented."

There is a 3.5-km long visitor path with an average width of 6 metres. "It is assumed that visitors use 2 metres on both sides of the pathway and the remaining 2 metres can be provisioned for movement of battery-operated vehicles, movement of feed vehicles and Zoo staff," the guidelines say.

A visitor takes around 3 hours to cover the Zoo by walk with a normal walking speed of around 6 km per hour. Safe distance between visitors required to ensure social distance is 6 feet (2 metres). So, the number of visitors, who can be safely accommodated at any given point of time, is 3,100 inside the Zoo. Safely, 166 visitors per 10 minutes and 8,000 visitors per day can be allowed," the guidelines say.

Online ticket booking

All visitors must compulsorily wear face masks — a counter will be set up at the entrance to sell masks — and undergo body temperature scanning and people with cough, cold or fever symptoms must be denied entry. Instead of physical tickets, e-ticket booking is preferred.

All visitors should pass over the medicated foot mat at the entrance. They should maintain social distance on the Zoo and avoid touching barricades and other surfaces. They should move along the designated visitor path only. Avoid carrying luggage, which needs a locker room facility. Visitors should neither spit nor must chew pan masala, gutka or khaini and those above 65 years of age avoid visiting.

Ensure that there is minimal interaction with Zoo staff and even if it is required ensure social distance of minimum of 10 feet. All visitors will be under CCTV camera monitoring and any violation will attract a penalty of up to Rs 1,000. Apart from these guidelines, there are standard operating procedures to be followed by the Zoo staff, feeders and battery-operated vehicle drivers, too.

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	5,575
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	4,896
Persons isolated in home for 14 days (Inter-State travellers)	:	677
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	2
Total samples tested	:	7,127
Samples found negative	:	7,035
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	92
Persons cured / discharged	:	90
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	209
Persons cured / discharged	:	25
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	1,743
Persons cured / discharged	:	597
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	41
Total active cases in India	:	66,330
Persons cured / discharged	:	48,533
Death toll so far in India	:	3,583

(Note: Mysuru figures as on May 21. Media bulletin for May 22 not available)

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